

Magnetically-Charged Black Branes and Viscosity/Entropy Ratios

Hai-Shan Liu^{1,2}, H. Lü³ and C.N. Pope^{2,4}

¹ *Institute for Advanced Physics & Mathematics,
Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310023, China*

² *George P. & Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy,
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, USA*

³ *Department of Physics, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China*

⁴ *DAMTP, Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge University,
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge CB3 0WA, UK*

ABSTRACT

We consider asymptotically-AdS n -dimensional black brane solutions in a theory of gravity coupled to a set of N p -form field strengths, in which the field strengths carry magnetic charges. For appropriately chosen charges, the metrics are isotropic in the $(n - 2)$ transverse directions. However, in general the field strength configurations break the full Euclidean symmetry of the $(n - 2)$ -dimensional transverse space. We then study the linearised equation for transverse traceless metric perturbations in these backgrounds, and by employing the Kubo formula we obtain expressions for η/S , the ratio of shear viscosity to entropy density. We find that the KSS bound on the ratio η/S is generally violated in these solutions. We also extend the discussion by including also a dilatonic scalar field in the theory, leading to solutions that are asymptotically Lifshitz with hyperscaling violation.

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1 Introduction

A class of static magnetically-charged planar black hole solutions of the Einstein-Maxwell theory with a cosmological constant in an even spacetime dimension n was constructed in [1]. In these solutions, the Maxwell field strength takes the form $F = \alpha(dx_1 \wedge dx_2 + dx_3 \wedge dx_4 + \dots)$, where x_i are the coordinates on the Euclidean $(n - 2)$ -dimensional transverse space of the planar black hole. In the case of $n = 4$ dimensions the solution is nothing but the standard magnetically-charged Reissner-Nordström black hole with a planar (or toroidal) horizon geometry. In even dimensions $n \geq 6$ the solutions are again asymptotic to AdS spacetime, but the magnetic charge contribution in the g_{tt} and g^{rr} metric functions, proportional to $1/r^2$, now falls off more slowly than the black hole mass term, which falls like $1/r^{n-3}$. This has significant implications for the properties of the boundary field theory related to the bulk theory via the AdS/CFT correspondence.

In this paper, we shall generalise the discussion in [1], by considering an n -dimensional theory comprising a set of N form fields coupled to Einstein gravity with a (negative) cosmological constant, possibly with the addition of a dilatonic scalar as well. A subclass of such theories that we shall initially focus on comprises N p -form field strengths coupled to gravity with a cosmological constant. We then study the asymptotically AdS static planar black hole solutions that arise when the form fields carry magnetic charges. A particular case

within this class of theories and solutions is when $p = 1$, meaning that the corresponding 1-form field strengths are simply the gradients of a set of N axionic scalar fields. The black hole solutions in this theory were constructed in [2], and were studied recently in [3], where properties such as the viscosity of the fluid described by the boundary CFT were investigated in detail.

The AdS/CFT correspondence provides a new tool to study the dynamics of strongly-coupled gauge field theories [4–7], and one of the most celebrated results is the universality, within a wide class of theories, of the ratio of shear viscosity to entropy density, namely

$$\frac{\eta}{S} = \frac{1}{4\pi}, \quad (1.1)$$

which was discovered, and further proposed as a lower bound, by Kovtun, Son and Starinets (KSS) [8–11]. Recently, another viewpoint was highlighted, in which (1.1) is interpreted as a holographic boundary dual to a generalized Smarr relation for the bulk gravitational backgrounds [12, 13].

It has been known for a while that the equality, and the KSS bound, can be violated under certain circumstances, notably in two different situations. The first of these is if the theory involves higher-derivative gravity (see e.g. [14–17],) and the second is if the gravitational background has an anisotropic transverse subspace (see e.g. [18–24].¹) Recently, it was observed in [3, 27, 28] that there is a third way to violate the bound, in a theory with conventional two-derivative gravity whose gravitational background is isotropic, but with $(n - 2)$ scalar matter fields having linear dependence on the $(n - 2)$ -dimensional transverse coordinates.

The solutions that we study in this paper provide generalisations of those that were considered in [3], and we find that again the viscosities in these systems can also violate the KSS bound. There are significant differences between the case of 1-form field strengths, as discussed in [3], and the cases with higher-degree forms. Principally, these differences arise because now, unlike in the case of $p = 1$, the isotropy of the transverse space is broken by field strengths in the background solution, and as a result different transverse traceless metric fluctuations can be associated with boundary operators yielding different shear viscosities. Some of the transverse and traceless (TT) modes give rise to η/S ratios that violate the KSS bound, while others give the standard $1/(4\pi)$ result.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we consider AdS black holes in $n = Np + 2$ dimensions carrying magnetic p -form charges. In section 3, we study the linearised

¹A violation of the viscosity bound has also recently been observed in a Horndeski gravity theory, whose action is purely linear in curvature [25, 26].

gravitational TT modes, and show that they obey a Klein-Gordon equation with a position-dependent mass. In section 4, we calculate the viscosity/entropy ratio, and evaluate it in various limits and special cases. We conclude the paper in section 5. New classes of Lifshitz black holes with hyperscaling behaviour in theories of gravity with form fields and a dilaton, where the form fields carrying magnetic charges, are given in an appendix.

2 AdS planar black holes with magnetic charges

In this section we consider Einstein gravity coupled to N p -form field strengths $F_{(p)}^I = dA_{(p-1)}^I$, $I = 1, 2, \dots, N$, with the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left(R - 2\Lambda - \frac{1}{2p!} \sum_{I=1}^N (F_{(p)}^I)^2 \right). \quad (2.1)$$

A general class of AdS black branes were constructed in [29]. For simplicity, we assume that the spacetime dimension is

$$n = Np + 2. \quad (2.2)$$

The theory admits AdS planar black hole solutions with the metric ansatz given by

$$ds_n^2 = -h dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f} + r^2 d\Sigma^2, \quad (2.3)$$

where $d\Sigma^2$ is the metric on an $(n-2)$ -dimensional Euclidean space. The Einstein tensor $G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}$ has non-zero components given by

$$\begin{aligned} G_{tt} &= -\frac{(n-2)}{2r} h f' - \frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2r^2} h f, \\ G_{rr} &= \frac{(n-2)}{2r} \frac{h'}{h} + \frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2r^2}, \\ G_{ij} &= \left[\frac{(n-3)r}{2} \left(f' + \frac{f h'}{h} \right) + \frac{r^2 f h''}{2h} + \frac{r^2 f' h'}{4h} - \frac{r^2 f h'^2}{4h^2} + \frac{1}{2}(n-3)(n-4) f \right] \delta_{ij}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Here, we shall consider the case where the N p -form field strengths each carry a magnetic charge and each spans a disjoint p -dimensional subspace of the (Np) -dimensional Euclidean space. Since the metric ansatz (2.3) is isotropic in the $(n-2)$ transverse directions, the N magnetic charges must necessarily be equal. Thus we may write

$$\begin{aligned} d\Sigma^2 &= d\Sigma_1^2 + d\Sigma_2^2 + \dots + d\Sigma_N^2, \\ d\Sigma_1^2 &= dx_1^2 + \dots + dx_p^2, \quad d\Sigma_2^2 = dy_1^2 + \dots + dy_p^2, \quad \text{etc.}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

with the magnetically charged field strengths given by

$$F_{(p)}^I = \alpha \Sigma_{(p)}^I, \quad I = 1, 2, \dots, N,$$

$$\Sigma_{(p)}^1 = dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_p, \quad \Sigma_{(p)}^2 = dy_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dy_p, \quad \text{etc.} \quad (2.6)$$

The black hole solution is then given by

$$h = f = g^2 r^2 - \frac{\alpha^2}{\Delta r^{2p-2}} - \frac{\mu}{r^{n-3}}, \quad \Delta = 2p(n-2p-1) = 2(N-2)p^2 + 2p, \quad (2.7)$$

where $\ell = 1/g$ is the AdS radius, defined by

$$g^2 = -\frac{2\Lambda}{(n-1)(n-2)}. \quad (2.8)$$

Note that the $p = 1$ case corresponds to the linear axion models [2].

The $(n-2)$ -dimensional metric $d\Sigma^2$ on the transverse space has the full isometries of the $(n-2)$ -dimensional Euclidean group \mathbb{E}^{n-2} , namely, the semi-direct product of the translations \mathbb{R}^{n-2} with the rotation group $SO(n-2) = SO(Np)$. The ansatz (2.6) for the N p -form field strengths, on the other hand, breaks the $SO(Np)$ rotational symmetry of the complete solution down to $SO(p)^N$. Since the gauge potentials $A_{(p-1)}^I$ enter the equations of motion only via their gauge-invariant field strengths $F_{(p)}^I = dA_{(p-1)}^I$, we may view the translational symmetries of the $(n-2)$ -dimensional transverse space as remaining unbroken in the bulk solution, modulo gauge transformations.² The case when $p = 1$ is special; this corresponds to N 1-form field strengths $F_{(1)}^I = d\chi^I$. The scalar Lagrangian has a global \mathbb{E}^N symmetry, comprising the semi-direct product of the axionic shift symmetries \mathbb{R}^N and the internal $SO(N)$ rotations. Setting $\chi^I = \alpha x^I$ equates the \mathbb{E}^N internal scalar symmetries with the \mathbb{E}^N symmetries of the Euclidean transverse metric $dx^I dx^I$, leading to a spontaneous breaking of $\mathbb{E}^N \times \mathbb{E}^N$ to the diagonal \mathbb{E}^N subgroup. As far as the bulk solution is concerned, one could choose to attribute this to a breaking of the internal scalar symmetries, with the Euclidean symmetries of the transverse space remaining unbroken. However, from the point of view of the CFT, the explicit coordinate dependence of the scalars χ^I implies that the dual operators in the boundary theory break the translational symmetries.

For $p \geq 2$, the metric (2.3) with (2.7) can instead be supported by a lesser number of field strengths. For example, we can use just one p -form field strength, with

$$F_{(p)}^1 = \alpha (\Sigma_{(p)}^1 + \Sigma_{(p)}^2 + \cdots + \Sigma_{(p)}^N). \quad (2.9)$$

²One could take, for example, $A_{(p-1)}^1 = \alpha x_1 dx_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_p$, which is not itself translationally invariant under $x_1 \rightarrow x_1 + c_1$, but it is invariant modulo the gauge transformation $A_{(p-1)}^1 \rightarrow A_{(p-1)}^1 + d\Lambda_{(p-2)}^1$, with $\Lambda_{(p-2)}^1 = -c_1 x_2 dx_3 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_p$. Note that although the bulk solutions can be viewed as being translationally invariant, translational symmetry is broken in the boundary CFTs, since the potentials themselves are the sources dual to operators in the boundary theory. A review of theories with broken translation invariance can be found in [30].

The $p = 2$ solution with a single Maxwell field was constructed in [1]. The general p -form solutions were previously constructed in [29]. (See also [31, 32].) As we shall see later, although the black hole metric is the same for these different form-field configurations, a transverse traceless metric perturbation can, under certain circumstances, be different, leading to a different viscosity/entropy ratio. For now, we note that for $p \geq 3$ the expression (2.9) is invariant under the $SO(p)^N$ subgroup of the $SO(Np)$ rotational symmetry group of the transverse Euclidean space. The case $p = 2$ is special, as we shall discuss later, with the symmetry now becoming $U(N)$.

It is worth pointing out that in our construction or in that of [1], the spacetime dimensions are forced to be $D = Np + 2$ for given p -forms. In particular this rules out $D = 5$ for $p = 2$. However, isotropic AdS black branes with magnetic charges can be constructed [33] in the $U(1)^3$ gauged supergravity that can be obtained from the S^5 reduction of type IIB supergravity [34].

3 Transverse, traceless perturbations

We now consider a transverse, traceless, perturbation of the background, by replacing the metric (2.3) by³

$$ds^2 = -h dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f} + r^2(d\Sigma_{n-2}^2 + 2\Psi(r, t) dx dy). \quad (3.1)$$

Here, x and y represent, for now, any two out of the total set of $(n - 2)$ coordinates in the Euclidean space of the $d\Sigma_{n-2}^2$ metric. The original Ricci tensor of the background metric acquires a single non-vanishing correction at linear order in Ψ , namely

$$\begin{aligned} R_{xy}^{(1)} &= -\frac{1}{2}r^2 \square \Psi - \frac{1}{2}r f' \Psi - \frac{r f h'}{2h} \Psi - (n - 2)f \Psi, \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}r^2 \square \Psi + R_{xx}^{(0)} \Psi, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

where $R_{xx}^{(0)}$ denotes any of the (diagonal) components of the zeroth-order Ricci tensor of the background metric, in the directions of the transverse $(n - 2)$ -dimensional Euclidean space. Thus the Einstein equation $G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}T_{\mu\nu}$, which can be graded in orders of powers of Ψ to

³For now, we consider a perturbation δg_{xy} involving just a single component of the metric. Later, we shall encounter a case where it is necessary to consider perturbations with two non-zero components, $\delta g_{x_1 y_1}$ and $\delta g_{x_2 y_2}$.

give $G_{\mu\nu}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{2}T_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$, $G_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2}T_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}$ and so on, leads to

$$\begin{aligned} G_{xy}^{(1)} &= -\frac{1}{2}r^2 \square \Psi + R_{xx}^{(0)} \Psi - \frac{1}{2}R^{(0)} g_{xy}^{(1)}, \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}r^2 \square \Psi + G_{xx}^{(0)} \Psi, \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}r^2 \square \Psi + \frac{1}{2}T_{xx}^{(0)} \Psi, \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

and hence

$$\square \Psi - \frac{1}{r^2} (T_{xx}^{(0)} \Psi - T_{xy}^{(1)}) = 0. \quad (3.4)$$

Writing $T_{xy}^{(1)} = (\delta T_{xy} / \delta g_{xy}) \delta g_{xy}$ gives, as in [3],

$$\square \Psi - m^2(r) \Psi = 0, \quad (3.5)$$

where

$$m(r)^2 = g^{xx} T_{xx} - \frac{\delta T_{xy}}{\delta g_{xy}}, \quad (3.6)$$

which reproduces the result in [3]. In the metric background (2.3), eqn (3.5) is given by

$$f \Psi'' + \left(\frac{f h'}{2h} + \frac{1}{2} f' + \frac{(n-2)}{r} f \right) \Psi' - \frac{1}{h} \ddot{\Psi} - m(r)^2 \Psi = 0, \quad (3.7)$$

where a dot denotes a derivative with respect to t .

The energy-momentum tensor for the set of N p -form field strengths is given by

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{(p-1)!} \sum_{I=1}^N \left[F_{\mu\rho_2 \dots \rho_p}^I F_{\nu}^{\rho_2 \dots \rho_p} - \frac{1}{2p} (F^I)^2 g_{\mu\nu} \right]. \quad (3.8)$$

With the fields given by (2.6), we therefore have that in the background solution,

$$T_{x_1 x_1} = T_{x_2 x_2} = \dots = T_{y_1 y_1} = T_{y_2 y_2} = \dots = \frac{\alpha^2 (1 - \frac{1}{2}N)}{r^{2p-2}}. \quad (3.9)$$

If we consider a TT metric fluctuation such as $\delta g_{x_1 y_1}$ (or any other case where one index is chosen from the range of coordinates spanned by one of the field strengths, and the other index chosen from the range of coordinates spanned by another field strength), then the first-order fluctuation in $T_{\mu\nu}$ will come purely from the fluctuation of $g_{\mu\nu}$ in the $F^2 g_{\mu\nu}$ terms in (3.8), and hence we shall have

$$T_{x_1 y_1} = -\frac{\alpha^2 N}{2r^{2p}} \delta g_{x_1 y_1}. \quad (3.10)$$

Thus, substituting into the expression (3.6), we find

$$m(r)^2 = \frac{\alpha^2}{r^{2p}} \quad (3.11)$$

This is the generalisation, to the case of N p -form field strengths, of the N axionic scalars considered in [3], which can be viewed as the potentials for 1-form field strengths.

An alternative possibility for the TT perturbation, keeping the same configuration (2.6) for the field strengths, is to take both of the indices on the metric fluctuation to lie in a range spanned by a single field strength. (This requires that $p \geq 2$.) Let us consider, for example, $\delta g_{x_1 x_2}$. The first-order fluctuation of the energy-momentum tensor will now receive contributions from both the terms inside the summation in (3.8), giving

$$T_{x_1 x_2} = \frac{\alpha^2 (1 - \frac{1}{2}N)}{r^{2p}} \delta g_{x_1 x_2} . \quad (3.12)$$

Substituting this result, together with (3.9), into (3.6) then gives

$$m(r)^2 = 0 \quad (3.13)$$

for this case.

One can also consider other possible form-field configurations that will give rise to black hole solutions with the metric taking the spatially-isotropic form (2.3), such as the case of a single p -form field strength spanning an NP -dimensional transverse space, as in (2.9). It is easy to verify that if $p \geq 3$, this gives the same results for $m(r)^2$ as we obtained in the previous example with N distinct p -forms each spanning non-overlapping p -dimensional subspaces. Namely, with the ansatz (2.9) for a single p -form, we find that $m(r)^2$ is given by (3.11) if the two indices on the metric perturbation are taken from two different p -dimensional subspaces, and that $m(r)^2$ vanishes as in (3.13) if the two indices lie within the same p -dimensional subspace.

A special case arises if a 2-form field strength spans a $2N$ -dimensional transverse space, as in (2.9). Now, unlike the situation when $p \geq 3$, the term $F_{\mu\rho_2\cdots\rho_p} F_{\nu}{}^{\rho_2\cdots\rho_p}$ in the energy-momentum tensor will also give a contribution at linear order in a metric perturbation δg_{xy} where the two indices lie in different 2-dimensional subspaces. Thus if the transverse directions are $(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2, \cdots)$, and we consider a metric fluctuation $\delta g_{x_1 y_1}$, then there will be linear-order terms in the energy momentum tensor given by

$$T_{x_1 y_1}^{(1)} = -\frac{N\alpha^2}{2r^4} \delta g_{x_1 y_1} , \quad T_{x_2 y_2}^{(1)} = -\frac{\alpha^2}{r^4} \delta g_{x_1 y_1} . \quad (3.14)$$

In order to obtain TT eigenfunctions of the linearised fluctuation equations, it is therefore necessary to consider metric fluctuations with both $\delta g_{x_1 y_1}$ and $\delta g_{x_2 y_2}$ non-zero in this case. The corresponding TT Lichnerowicz modes are diagonalised by writing $\delta g_{x_1 y_1} = \frac{1}{2}r^2(\Psi_+ + \Psi_-)$ and $\delta g_{x_2 y_2} = \frac{1}{2}r^2(\Psi_+ - \Psi_-)$, for which, using also the appropriate extension of (3.4),

we find

$$\square \Psi_{\pm} - m_{\pm}(r)^2 \Psi_{\pm} = 0, \quad (3.15)$$

with

$$m_{+}(r)^2 = \frac{2\alpha^2}{r^4}, \quad m_{-}(r)^2 = 0. \quad (3.16)$$

It is worth remarking that the single 2-form field with the ansatz (2.9) in the $2N$ -dimensional transverse space also breaks the $SO(2N)$ rotational symmetry of the background metric. In this case, it is broken down to $U(N)$, as may be seen by introducing complex coordinates z_a defined by

$$z_1 = x_1 + i x_2, \quad z_2 = y_1 + i y_2, \quad \text{etc.}, \quad (3.17)$$

in terms of which the field strength can be written as

$$F_{(2)} = \frac{i \alpha}{2} dz_a \wedge d\bar{z}_a. \quad (3.18)$$

Thus $F_{(2)}$ can be seen to be α times the Kähler form on the $2N$ -dimensional Euclidean space, and it manifestly has a $U(N)$ symmetry.

4 Viscosity/entropy ratio

In the previous sections, we considered magnetically charged black branes and analyzed the transverse and traceless perturbation modes. Now, we turn to the derivation of the viscosity to entropy density ratio. Usually, it is a universal value (1.1) for gauge theories which have two-derivative Einstein gravity dual. However, as is observed in [3], the situation is changed when the theory involves anisotropic matter fields.

4.1 A general discussion

As discussed in [3], and the previous section, a traceless and transverse mode in the metric (2.3) satisfies (3.5). Consider $\Psi(r, t) = e^{-i\omega t} \psi(r)$. Near the horizon with

$$h = h_1 (r - r_0) + h_2 (r - r_0)^2 + \dots, \quad f = f_1 (r - r_0) + f_2 (r - r_0)^2 + \dots, \quad (4.1)$$

we have

$$\psi(r) \sim \exp \left(- \frac{i\omega}{4\pi T} \log(r - r_0) \right), \quad (4.2)$$

where

$$T = \frac{\sqrt{f_1 h_1}}{4\pi} \quad (4.3)$$

is the Hawking temperature. This leads to the ansatz for ψ in a small- ω expansion, with

$$\psi(r) = \chi(r) \exp\left(-\frac{i\omega}{4\pi T} \log f(r)\right) (1 - i\omega U(r)) + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2), \quad (4.4)$$

where χ is the solution of equation (3.7) with $\omega = 0$:

$$f\chi'' + \left(\frac{fh'}{2h} + \frac{1}{2}f' + \frac{(n-2)}{r}f\right)\chi' - m(r)^2\chi = 0. \quad (4.5)$$

For the massless case with $m(r) = 0$, χ is simply a constant, and can be set to be 1. For non-vanishing $m(r)$, χ depends on r . If $m(r)$ falls off sufficiently fast asymptotically, then $\chi \rightarrow 1$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$. The function U can also be solved up to quadratures, and is given by

$$U' = \frac{1}{r^{n-2}\chi^2\sqrt{hf}} \left(c - \frac{\chi^2 f' r^{n-2}}{4\pi T} \sqrt{\frac{h}{f}}\right), \quad (4.6)$$

where the integration constant c should be chosen such that the zero in the denominator coming from the vanishing of f and h on the horizon is cancelled. Thus we have

$$c = r_0^{n-2}\chi(r_0)^2 = 4S\chi(r_0)^2. \quad (4.7)$$

where S is the entropy density, given by

$$S = \frac{1}{4}r_0^{n-2}. \quad (4.8)$$

This implies

$$\psi^*\psi' = -\frac{4i\omega S\chi(r_0)^2}{\sqrt{hf}r^{n-2}} + \chi\chi' + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2). \quad (4.9)$$

Following the procedure described in [9, 15], and applied to black holes with the metric ansatz (2.3) in [12], the shear viscosity will then be given by

$$\eta = -\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{r^{n-2}\sqrt{hf}(\psi^*\psi' - \text{c.c.})}{32i\pi\omega} \right] = \frac{S}{4\pi} \chi(r_0)^2, \quad (4.10)$$

and hence

$$\frac{\eta}{S} = \frac{\chi(r_0)^2}{4\pi}. \quad (4.11)$$

We now apply the above discussion to the AdS planar black holes in section 2. The metric functions were given in (2.7), and $m(r)$ is given by

$$m(r)^2 = \frac{\nu\alpha^2}{r^{2p}}. \quad (4.12)$$

The parameter ν can be 0, 1 or 2, corresponding to the cases we saw in (3.13), (3.11) and the $m_+(r)^2$ expression in (3.16) respectively. (The $\nu = 2$ case arises only when $p = 2$.)

4.2 The special case $\mu = 0$

We first consider the case where $\mu = 0$ in the metric functions given in (2.7). The horizon is located at r_0 with

$$r_0^{2p} = \frac{\alpha^2}{\Delta g^2}, \quad (4.13)$$

and the Hawking temperature is

$$T = \frac{pg^2}{2\pi\Delta^{\frac{1}{2p}}}\left(\frac{\alpha}{g}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}. \quad (4.14)$$

The function χ can be found explicitly in this case, and is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \chi = & c_1 {}_2F_1\left[\frac{1}{2}(1-x-y), \frac{1}{2}(1-x+y); 1-x; \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^{2p}\right] \\ & + \frac{c_2}{r^{2px}} {}_2F_1\left[\frac{1}{2}(1+x-y), \frac{1}{2}(1+x+y); 1+x; \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^{2p}\right], \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

where c_1 and c_2 are two integration constants and

$$x = \frac{n-1}{2p}, \quad y = \frac{\sqrt{(n-2p-1)(n-2(4\nu+1)p-1)}}{2p}. \quad (4.16)$$

The quantity χ diverges when $r = r_0$ for general values of c_1 and c_2 , but it can be made convergent by choosing

$$\frac{c_2}{c_1} = -\frac{\Gamma(1-x)\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1+x-y))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1+x+y))}{\Gamma(1+x)\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1-x-y))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1-x+y))} \frac{1}{r_0^{2px}}. \quad (4.17)$$

With this choice, we find

$$\chi(r_0) = \frac{2c_1\pi\Gamma(1-x)\sin(\pi x)}{(\cos(\pi x) + \cos(\pi y))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1-x-y))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1-x+y))}. \quad (4.18)$$

Thus for this case, we have

$$\frac{4\pi\eta}{S} = \left(\frac{2\pi\Gamma(1-x)\sin(\pi x)}{(\cos(\pi x) + \cos(\pi y))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1-x-y))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(1-x+y))} \right)^2, \quad (4.19)$$

which is less than 1. The result with $p = 1$ in four dimensions was obtained previously in [35].

Turning now to the case where the parameter μ in the metric functions h and f in (2.7) is non-zero, it is no longer possible to obtain a general closed-form expression for $\chi(r)$. It is nevertheless possible to obtain expansions valid for small values of the magnetic charge parameter α , or else for small values of the Hawking temperature of the black hole, as we shall discuss below.

4.3 Small α (large T) expansion

The metric functions (2.7), and the other quantities needed for solving (4.5), are given by

$$h = f = g^2 r^2 - \frac{\alpha^2}{\Delta r^{2p-2}} - \frac{\mu}{r^{n-3}}, \quad m(r)^2 = \frac{\nu \alpha^2}{r^{2p}}, \quad \Delta = 2p(n - 2p - 1). \quad (4.20)$$

The horizon is located at $r = r_0$, implying that μ is given by

$$\mu = g^2 r_0^{n-1} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{\Delta g^2 r_0^{2p}} \right), \quad (4.21)$$

and hence the Hawking temperature $T = h'(r_0)/(4\pi)$ is given by

$$T = \frac{(n-1)g^2 r_0}{4\pi} \left[1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2p(n-1)g^2 r_0^{2p}} \right]. \quad (4.22)$$

Defining T_0 to be the temperature when $\alpha = 0$, we have

$$T = T_0 \left[1 - \frac{1}{8\pi p} \left(\frac{(n-1)g^2}{4\pi} \right)^{2p-1} \left(\frac{\alpha}{T_0^p} \right)^2 \right], \quad T_0 = \frac{(n-1)g^2 r_0}{4\pi}. \quad (4.23)$$

If $\alpha/T_0^p \ll 1$ then we have $T \approx T_0$, with $T \leq T_0$, and so if $\alpha/T^p \ll 1$ we also have $\alpha/T_0^p \ll 1$.

We may seek a solution for the function χ as a series expansion in powers of α , writing

$$\chi = 1 + \alpha^2 \tilde{\chi} + \dots. \quad (4.24)$$

Substituting into (4.5), we find that $\tilde{\chi}$ has the solution

$$\tilde{\chi}(z) = -\frac{\nu}{g^2(n-1-2p)r_0^{2p}} \left[\left(\frac{z^{2p}}{2p} \right) {}_2F_1 \left[1, \frac{2p}{n-1}; 1 + \frac{2p}{n-1}; z^{n-1} \right] + \frac{1}{n-1} \log(1-z^{n-1}) \right], \quad (4.25)$$

where $z = r_0/r$. Thus on the horizon, at $z = 1$, we have

$$\tilde{\chi}(1) = \frac{\nu [\gamma + P(\frac{2p}{n-1})]}{(n-1)(n-2p-1)g^2 r_0^{2p}}, \quad (4.26)$$

where γ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant and $P(z) \equiv \Gamma'(z)/\Gamma(z)$ is the digamma function.

This implies that the viscosity/entropy ratio is given by

$$\frac{4\pi\eta}{S} = 1 + \frac{2\nu(n-1)^{2p-1}g^{4p-2}}{(n-2p-1)(4\pi)^{2p}} \left[\gamma + P(\frac{2p}{n-1}) \right] \left(\frac{\alpha}{T^p} \right)^2 + \mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{\alpha}{T^p} \right)^4 \right). \quad (4.27)$$

Note that the value of $\gamma + P(\frac{2p}{n-1})$ is always less than zero (for the relevant values of n and p), so the ratio $4\pi\eta/S$ is less than 1. The result for the special $n = 4$ and $p = 1$ case was obtained in [3].

4.4 Low temperature expansion

When the magnetic charge parameter α is given by

$$\alpha^2 = 2(n-1)pg^2r_0^{2p}, \quad (4.28)$$

the solution becomes extremal with zero temperature. In this case, viscosity vanishes. At the low-temperature, we find that the equation for χ seemingly cannot be solved analytically, except when $p = 1$, with $n = 4$ or 5 . The four-dimensional result was given in [3]. In five dimensions (with $\nu = 1$), we find

$$\chi(z) = \frac{1-3z^2}{1-z^2} - \frac{4z^4 \log z}{(1-z^2)^2} + \frac{2\pi T z^2(1-z^4+4z^2 \log z)}{g^2 r_0(1-z^2)^3} + \mathcal{O}(T^2), \quad (4.29)$$

where again, $z = r_0/r$. This means that at on the horizon (i.e. at $z = 1$),

$$\chi(1) = -\frac{2\pi T}{3g^2 r_0}, \quad (4.30)$$

and hence, from (4.11), we find

$$\frac{4\pi\eta}{S} = \frac{4\pi^2 T^2}{9g^4 r_0^2} + \dots = \frac{32\pi^2}{9g^2} \left(\frac{T}{\alpha}\right)^2 + \mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{T}{\alpha}\right)^4\right). \quad (4.31)$$

Thus the viscosity bound (1.1) is violated in the special case when $\mu = 0$, and in the high-temperature limit, and also in the low-temperature limit where the viscosity/entropy ratio is proportional to T^2 . The low-temperature result provides further examples of the phenomenon seen already in [3] and elsewhere, that the ratio η/S can not only be less than the KSS bound $1/(4\pi)$, but it can be arbitrarily close to zero.⁴

5 Conclusions

In this paper, we studied n -dimensional magnetically-charged planar black hole solutions in the theory of Einstein gravity coupled to N p -form field strengths. In general, turning on the magnetic charges would result in solutions where the metric in the transverse space would be anisotropic. However, by requiring the field strengths to span the entire transverse space, with equal magnetic charges associated with each of the p -dimensional planes, we obtained solutions where the metric was isotropic in the transverse dimensions, with the full Euclidean \mathbb{E}^{n-2} symmetry. The field strengths in the solution in general break the associated $SO(n-2)$ rotational symmetry of the metric to a subgroup.

⁴A large violation of the KSS bound in a system without pathologies was first exhibited in [36].

We then studied the transverse and traceless metric perturbations of the background solutions. Although the metric is isotropic, the linearised TT modes turn out to satisfy scalar wave equations with different radially-dependent “mass terms” that are proportional to the magnetic charge parameter α as in (4.12). For $p = 1$ forms, corresponding to axion potentials, we have $\nu = 1$; for $p = 2$ Maxwell field strengths, we have $\nu = 0, 1$ or 2 , depending on the nature of the charge configurations; for $p \geq 3$, we have $\nu = 0$ or 1 . The viscosity can be calculated by means of the Kubo formula, and it turns out to depend on the magnitude of the zero-frequency linearised mode evaluated on the horizon. It can be easily established that the $m(r) = 0$ cases yield the standard KSS ratio $\eta/S = 1/(4\pi)$. For $m(r)^2 > 0$, the general linearised equation cannot be solved analytically, although there is a special case where the mass parameter μ in the black hole solution vanishes, for which we can obtain an analytical solution for the linearised mode. We then studied the cases where $\mu \neq 0$, for which we could solve the linearised equation in the limits of a high-temperature expansion and also in a low-temperature expansion. In both cases, the viscosity bound is violated, and the ratio η/S approaches zero, proportional to T^2 , in the low-temperature limit.

It is worth commenting that the underlying reason for the violation of the KSS bound is very different from the standpoint of the boundary field theory versus the bulk gravity. For example, for the linear axion models corresponding to $p = 1$, the violation of the bound is attributed in the boundary field theory to the linear dependence of the axions on the spatial coordinates, which breaks the translational invariance. On the other hand, from the viewpoint of the bulk theory, one may view the translational symmetry as remaining unbroken, at the expense of the breaking of the axionic shift symmetries of the scalar fields. (Analogous statements are true also for all $p \geq 1$.) Furthermore, from the bulk viewpoint, the full $SO(n-2) = SO(Np)$ rotational symmetry in the transverse space may be considered to be preserved for $p = 1$. For $p \geq 3$, the rotational symmetry breaks down to $SO(p)^N$. In this case, $m(r)^2$ for TT modes within a p -dimensional subspace spanned by a magnetic charge vanishes, while $m(r)^2$ is non-vanishing if the TT mode encompasses two distinct subspaces. The solution with a single $p = 2$ field strength is more complicated since the rotational symmetry breaks down to $U(N)$ in this case. In all cases, the violation of the KSS bound is related to the non-vanishing of $m(r)^2$; however, the direct culprit for such a non-vanishing mass in the bulk wave equation for the TT modes is not entirely clear. It is also worth commenting that the magnetically charged solutions break the scaling symmetry associated with the generalized Smarr relation that is the bulk dual to the KSS bound in a

two-derivative gravity theory [12, 13].

We also derived magnetically-charged Lifshitz black holes with hyperscaling violation, which we presented in an appendix.

Since the matter fields are spatially dependent, the solutions we considered provide simple holographic models for studying momentum relaxation. It would also be interesting to study the transport properties of these solutions.

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A Lifshitz black holes with hyperscaling violation

In this section, we shall construct black hole solutions of the type (2.3), but carrying magnetic charges for form fields of different ranks. The energy-momentum tensors of the field strengths with different ranks have different fall-off rates, and it is necessary to introduce a dilaton field that can act as a compensator so that the metric in the $(n-2)$ brane directions can still be isotropic. Thus we shall consider the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left(R - 2\Lambda e^{a\phi} - \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{p_i!} e^{b_i\phi} (F_{(p_i)}^i)^2 \right), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where a and b_i are dilaton coupling constants. We assume that the spacetime dimension is

$$n = 2 + \sum_{i=1}^N p_i. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

A subset of the theories of the form (A.1) comprises those that are obtained from a circle reduction of the theories (2.1) that we studied earlier. For example, if we start from the n -dimensional theory of a single p -form coupled to gravity, then the theory in $n-1$ dimensions comprises a p -form, a $(p-1)$ -form and a dilaton coupled to gravity. The resulting $(n-1)$ -dimensional magnetic brane solution is also an asymptotically-AdS planar black hole, with $n = Np + 2$. In this appendix, we shall not give the details of these solutions, since the dimensional reduction is straightforward. Instead we consider the more general Lagrangians that cannot be obtained from such a dimensional reduction.

We construct static and isotropic black holes with the metric form (2.3), with the ansatz for the metric and form fields being given by

$$\begin{aligned}
d\Sigma^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^N d\Sigma_i^2, \\
d\Sigma_1^2 &= dx_1^2 + \cdots + dx_{p_1}^2, \quad d\Sigma_2^2 = dy_1^2 + \cdots + dy_{p_2}^2, \quad \text{etc.}, \\
F_{(p_i)}^i &= \alpha_i \Sigma_i, \\
\Sigma_1 &= dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_{p_1}, \quad d\Sigma_2 = dy_1 \wedge dy_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge dy_{p_2}, \quad \text{etc.} \quad (\text{A.3})
\end{aligned}$$

The equations of motion for the form fields are automatically satisfied. The scalar equation is given by

$$\square\phi = 2a\Lambda e^{a\phi} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{b_i \alpha_i^2 e^{b_i \phi}}{2r^{2p_i}}. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

The Einstein equations of motion are

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{rr} - \phi'^2 - \frac{1}{2f} \left(-2\Lambda e^{a\phi} - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\alpha_i^2 e^{b_i \phi}}{2r^{2p_i}} \right) &= 0, \\
G_{tt} + \frac{1}{2}h \left(-2\Lambda e^{a\phi} - \frac{1}{2}\phi'^2 - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\alpha_i^2 e^{b_i \phi}}{2r^{2p_i}} \right) &= 0, \\
G_{x_i x_i} - \frac{\alpha_i^2 e^{b_i \phi}}{2r^{2p_i-2}} - \frac{1}{2}r^2 \left(-2\Lambda e^{a\phi} - \frac{1}{2}\phi'^2 - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\alpha_i^2 e^{b_i \phi}}{2r^{2p_i}} \right) &= 0, \quad (\text{A.5})
\end{aligned}$$

where $G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}$ is the Einstein tensor. Since $G_{x_i x_i}$ in the different blocks $d\Sigma_i^2$ must be the same for the isotropic solutions, the quantities

$$\frac{\alpha_i^2 e^{b_i \phi}}{r^{2p_i-2}}$$

must be the same for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$. For general parameters, this implies that $\phi = \gamma \log r$ with

$$\alpha_i = \alpha, \quad \gamma b_i - 2p_i = \text{const.} \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (\text{A.6})$$

The constant γ can be determined from the scalar equation, which implies

$$\gamma b_i - 2p_i = \gamma a. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

Summing over the all the i indices yields

$$\gamma = \frac{2(n-2)}{b - Na}, \quad b = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i. \quad (\text{A.8})$$

The magnetic charge parameter α is also fully determined, and is given by

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{4(-\Lambda)(Na^2 - ab - 2)}{Nab - 2N - b^2}. \quad (\text{A.9})$$

The metric functions h and f are given by

$$h = r^{\frac{\gamma^2}{n-2}} f, \quad f = \sigma \left(r^{2+\gamma a} - \frac{\mu}{r^{n-3+\frac{\gamma^2}{2(n-2)}}} \right), \quad (\text{A.10})$$

where

$$\sigma = \frac{8(n-2)^2(-\Lambda)a}{\gamma((n-2)(ab-2) + \gamma b)(2(n-1)(n-2) + 2(n-2)a\gamma + \gamma^2)}. \quad (\text{A.11})$$

Thus the solutions are asymptotic to Lifshitz spacetimes [37,38], with hyperscaling violation [39–42]. Such black hole solutions in the literature typically involve Maxwell fields carrying electric charges, whilst our solutions involve various p -forms that carry magnetic charges. Note that if $p_i = p$ for all i (with either a single or else multiple p -form field strengths), we must have $\alpha_i = \alpha$ and $b_i = b$, but ϕ does not have to be proportional to $\log r$. In particular, ϕ can vanish asymptotically as $r \rightarrow \infty$, giving rise to an AdS planar black hole instead of a Lifshitz black hole. Analogous AdS planar black holes also arise from the Kaluza-Klein reduction of the theory discussed in section 2, as we commented under (A.2).

Note that the solution for the general cases contains only one integration constant, associated with the mass parameter μ . The magnetic charge parameter α is fixed in terms of the “cosmological constant” (A.9). When $a = 0$, the metric in the Einstein frame is asymptotic to a Lifshitz spacetime; for non-vanishing a , the metric is conformal to a Lifshitz spacetime, with a hyperscaling violation. To be explicit, we define a new radial coordinate

$$\rho = r^{1+\frac{1}{2}\gamma a}, \quad (\text{A.12})$$

in terms of which the metric becomes

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= \rho^{-\frac{2\gamma a}{2+\gamma a}} d\tilde{s}^2 = e^{-a\phi} d\tilde{s}^2, \\ d\tilde{s}^2 &= -\rho^{\frac{2(\gamma^2+(n-2)\gamma a)}{(n-2)(2+\gamma a)}} \tilde{f} dt^2 + \frac{d\rho^2}{\tilde{f}} + \rho^2 d\Sigma^2, \\ \tilde{f} &= \sigma(1 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma a)^2 \left[\rho^2 - \mu \rho^{-\frac{2(n-2)(n-3)+\gamma^2}{(n-2)(2+\gamma a)}} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.13})$$

We find that the transverse and traceless modes also satisfy the wave equation

$$(\square - m(r)^2)\Psi(r, t) = 0, \quad (\text{A.14})$$

but now with $m(r)^2$ given by

$$m(r)^2 = \nu \alpha^2 r^{\gamma a}. \quad (\text{A.15})$$

It is clear that when $\gamma a \geq 0$, the mass is non-vanishing as $r \rightarrow \infty$. It follows that the zero-frequency mode χ cannot approach a constant as $r \rightarrow \infty$. In order for χ to approach

1 asymptotically, as in the case we discussed in the main text, it is necessary to have $m(r)$ vanish on the boundary with a sufficiently rapid fall off. However, the solution (A.10) implies that we must have $\gamma a > -2$. This makes it impossible that χ can approach 1 as $r \rightarrow \infty$. The implications for the dual boundary theory in this case will be addressed in a future publication.

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